even the scepter she carries in her hand is made of the same costly metal. It is only on rare occasions, however, that the Virgin is garbed in all her royal and splendid raiment. The annual pilgrimage in the month of May to the shrine at Antipolo is a combination of religion and pleasure.

The Vatican is represented in Manila by an Apostolic Delegate. The Philippines is divided into two archdioceses, Manila and Cebu. The Archbishop of Cebu and eight of the eleven bishops are Filipinos. The standing of the Philippines in the Roman Catholic World was shown by the choice of Manila for the holding of the Twenty-third International Eucharistic Congress in 1937.

The story of the Independent Filipino Church is the story of one man, Bishop Gregorio Aglipay. He was born on May 9, 1860, which means that he is near to being an octogenarian. He studied for the priesthood, was ordained a Catholic priest, and was highly regarded by the Spanish friars. But when during the uprising against Spain he headed a movement bent on refusing to recognize any foreign element in the Catholic Church in the Philippines, Father Aglipay was excommunicated. General Aguinaldo named him Vicar General of the Filipino Army, and he stayed with the army of Aguinaldo as long as there was the slightest chance for success. Ecclesiastical councils met under Father Aglipay's inspiration and presidency, and in 1902 proclaimed the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente de las Islas Filipinos* (The Independent Filipino Church of the Philippine Islands) with Father Aglipay as

Obispo Maximo (Supreme Bishop). He has held this position continuously since then.

The Independent Filipino Church aims above all else to be a national church. It is true that it retains some of the forms

[4] **Section read by Bishop Isabelo De los Reyes, Jr., of the Independent Filipino Church.**